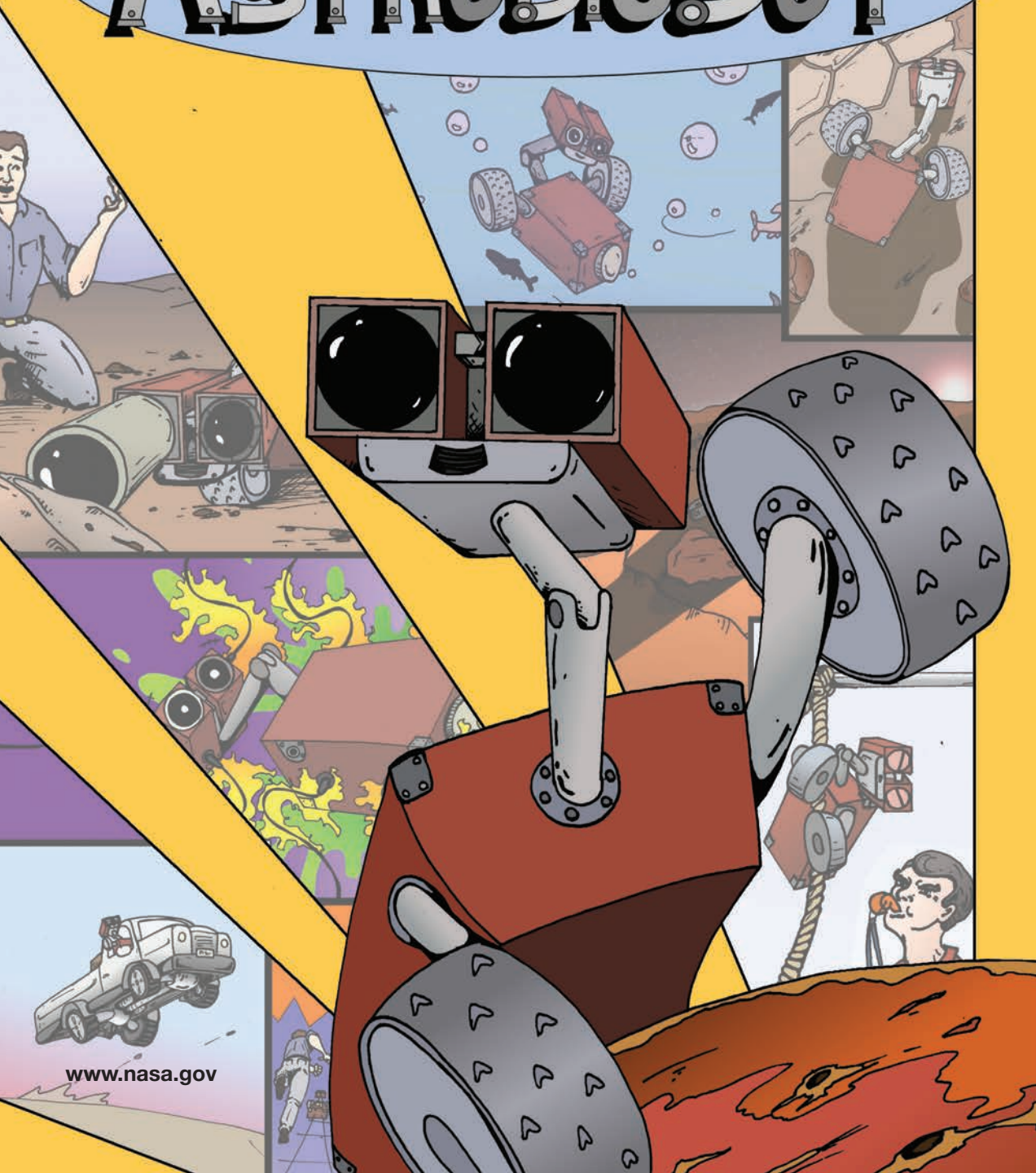




The Amazing Adventures of ASTROBLOBOT



The Amazing Adventures of AstroBioBot

The Amazing Adventures of AstroBioBot were produced in 2011
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Concept & Story

Aaron Gronstal and Leslie Mullen

Artwork

Aaron L. Gronstal

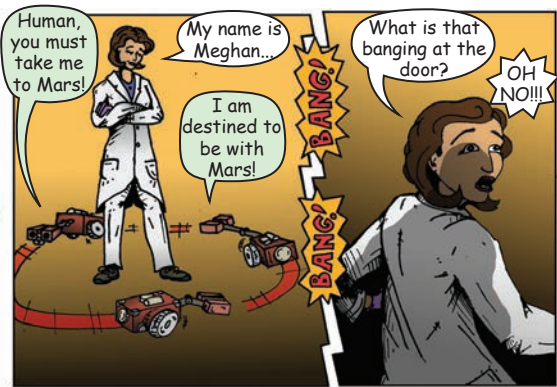
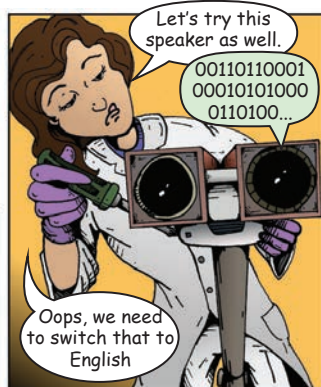
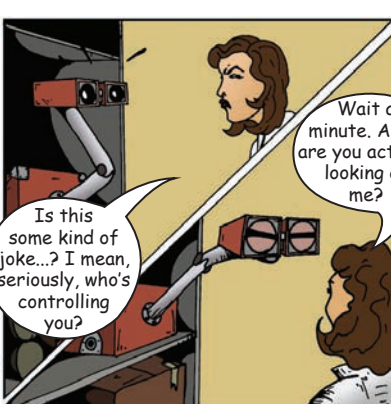
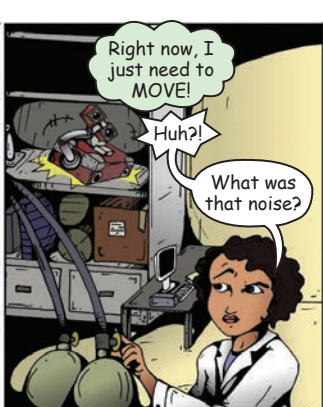
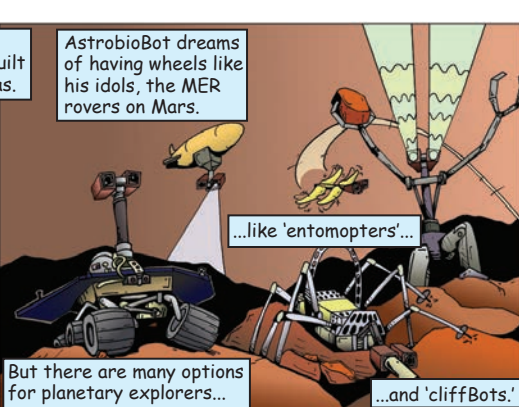
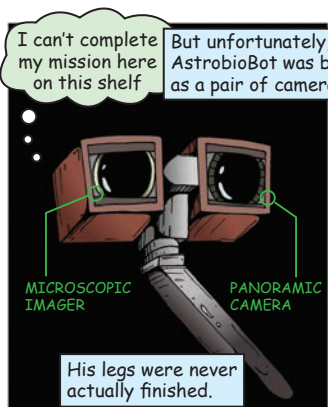
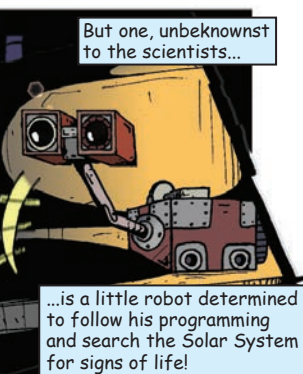
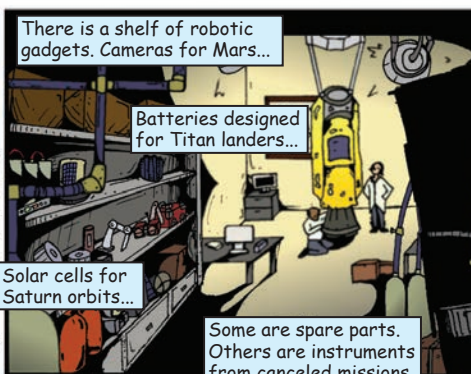
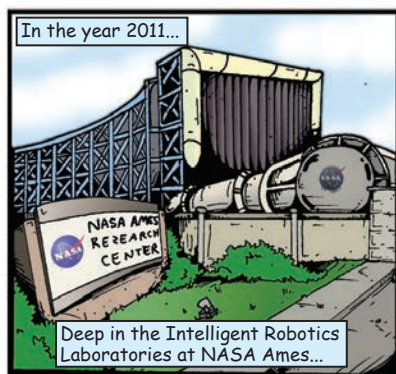
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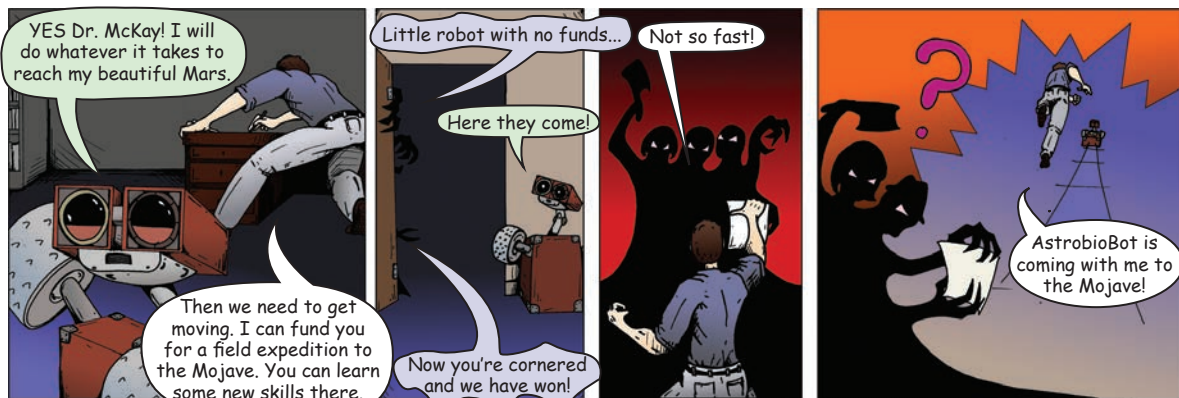
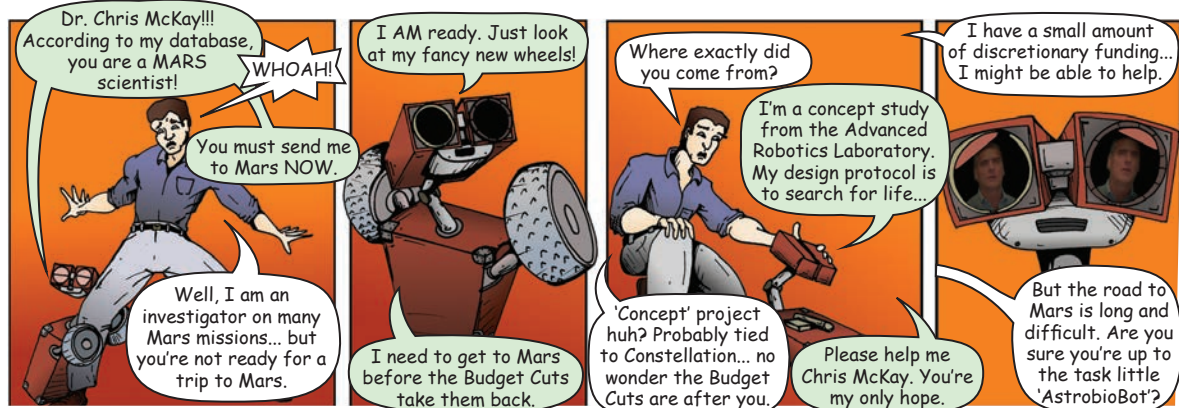
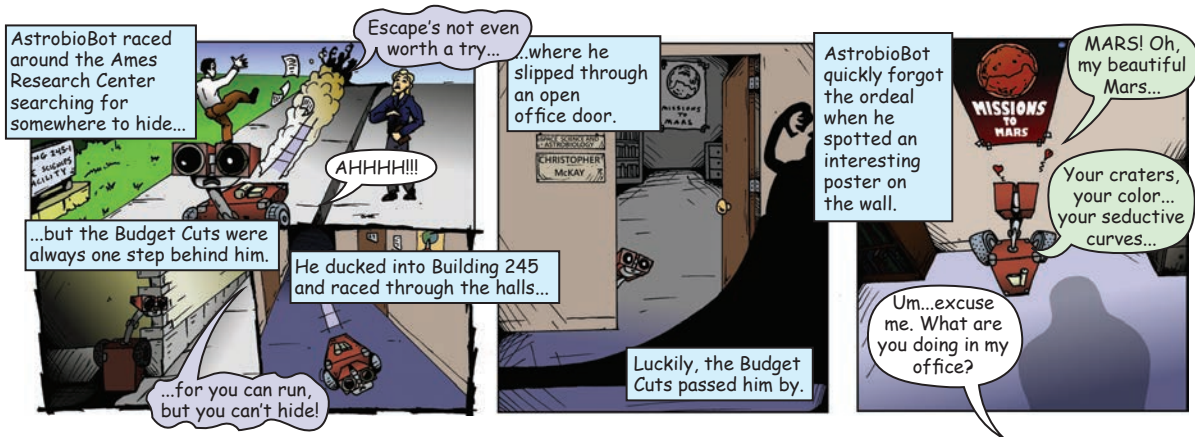
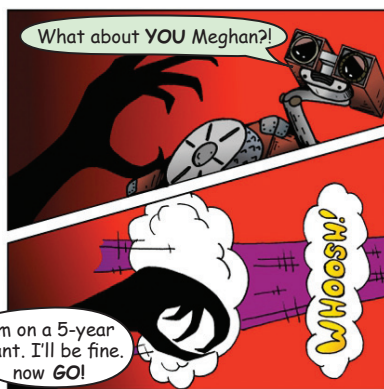
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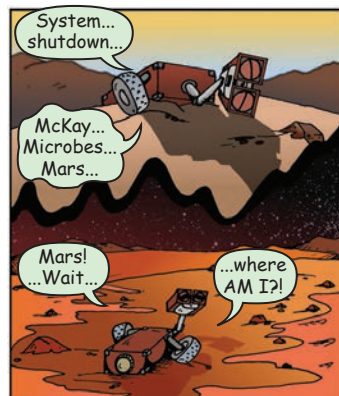
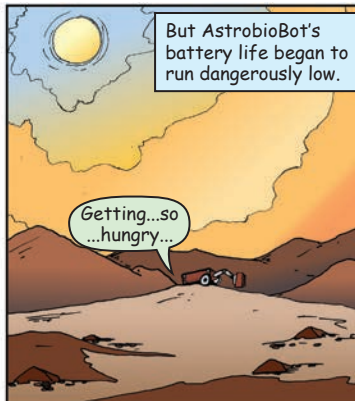
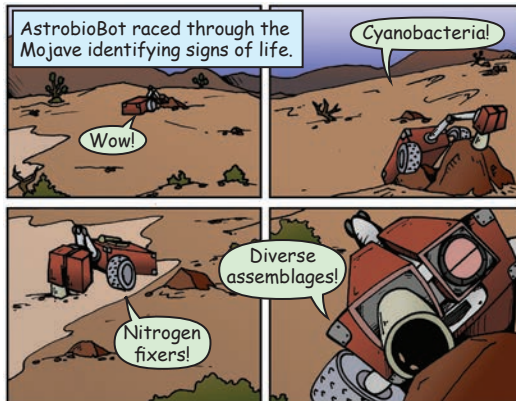
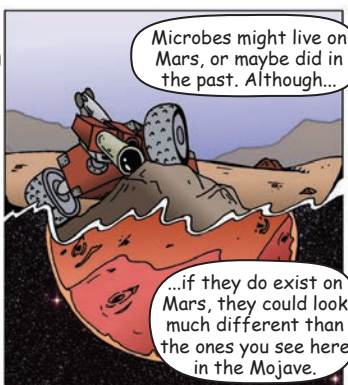
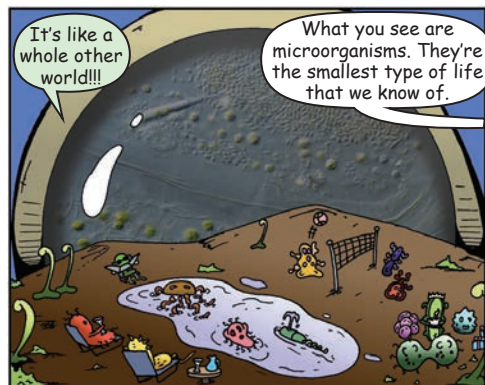
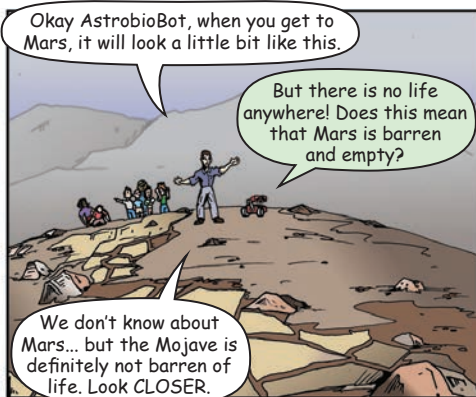
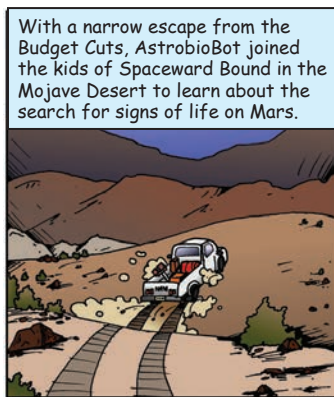
Karyn Traphagen

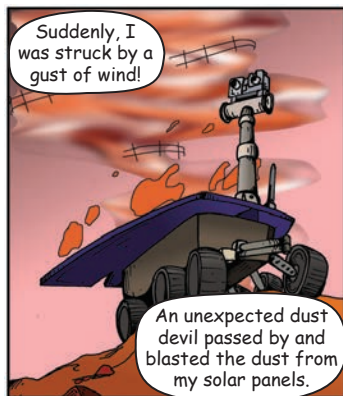
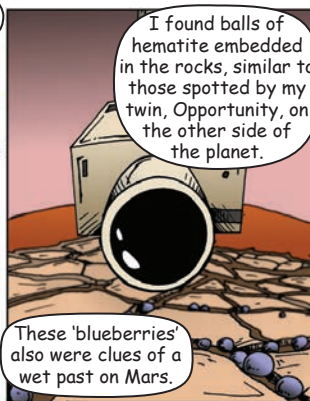
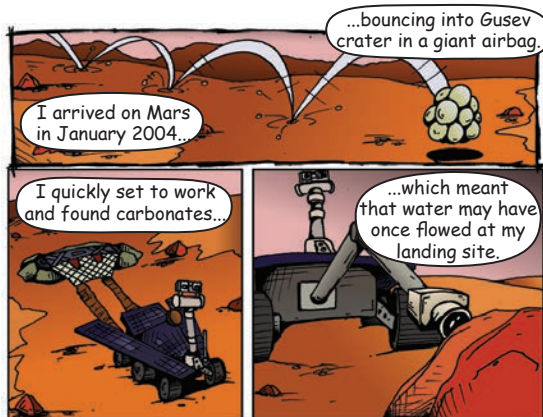
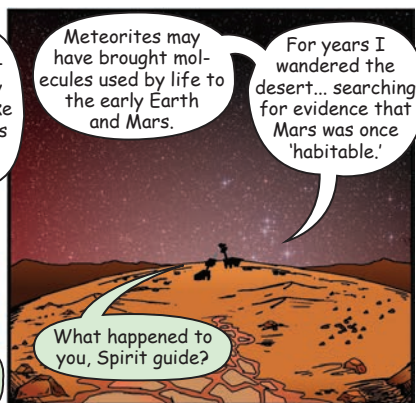
From the Authors

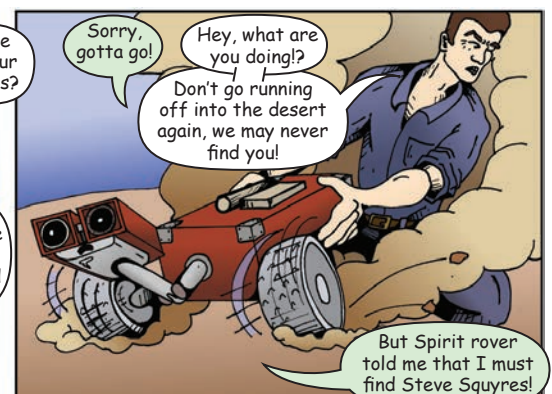
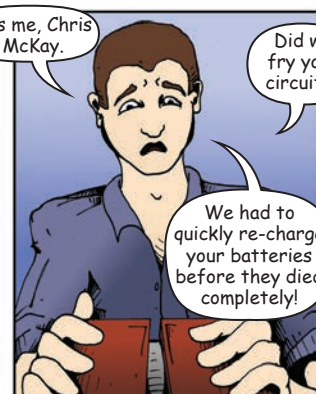
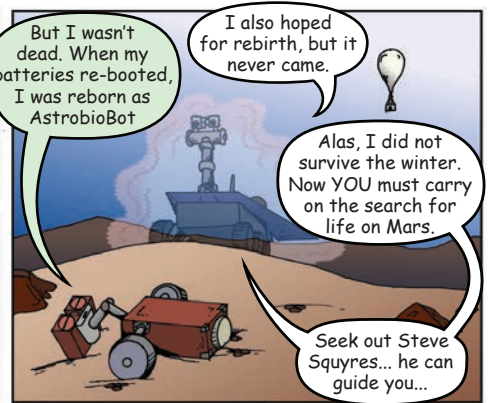
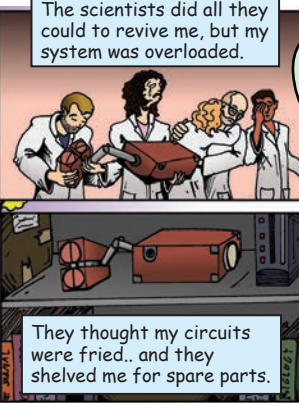
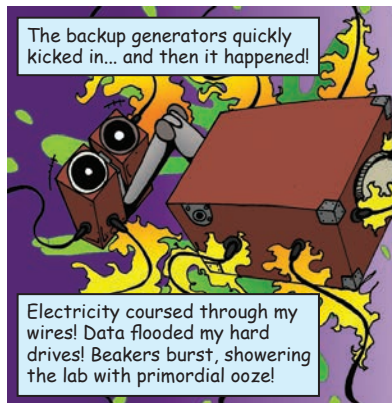
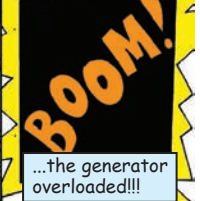
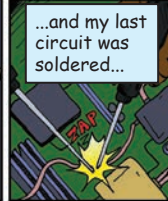
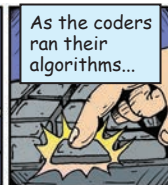
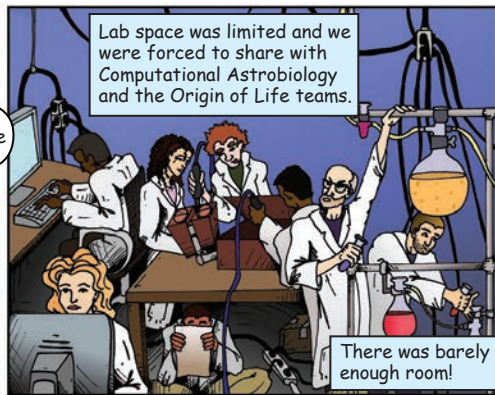
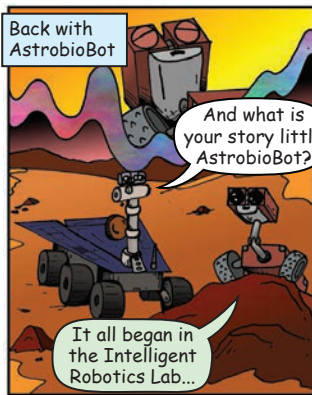
The *Amazing Adventures of AstroBioBot* was a weekly series published in 2012 on the *Astrobiology Magazine* (www.astrobio.net). We created this series as a light-hearted way to tell the tales of planetary science and the development of a space mission. The story follows a little robotic instrument and his journey to become a full-fledged Astrobiology adventurer. While AstroBioBot himself is obviously fictitious, many of the supporting characters featured in the comic strip are real-life astrobiologists and mission specialists working in planetary science. Many of the experiments and expeditions that AstroBioBot takes part in are based on actual projects being undertaken by NASA, Universities and space agencies around the world. To learn more about the real-life science behind the story of AstroBioBot, visit the *Astrobiology Magazine* at www.astrobio.net.

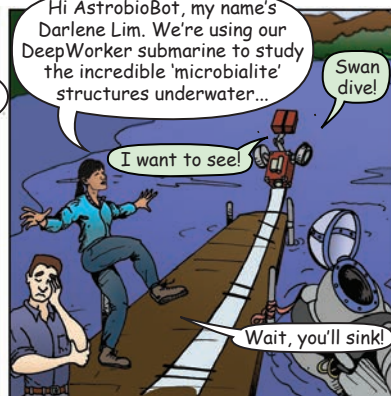
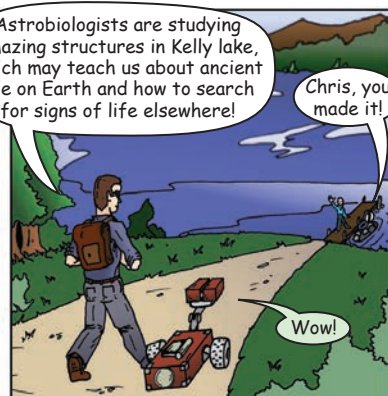
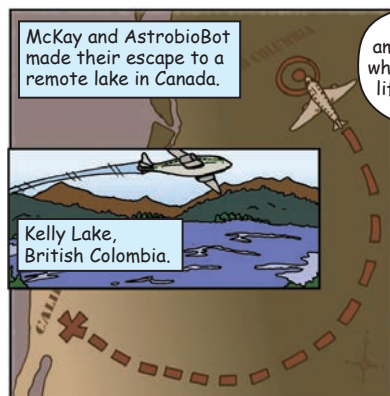
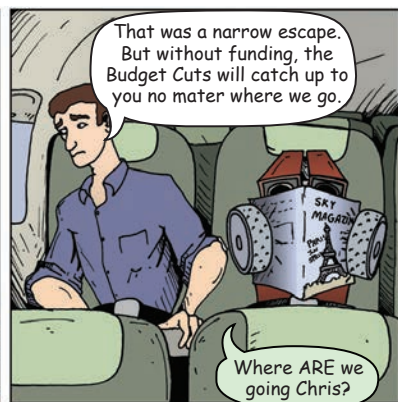
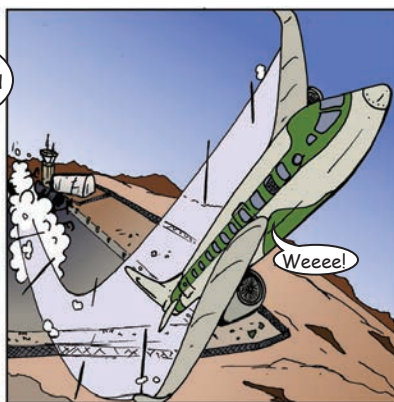
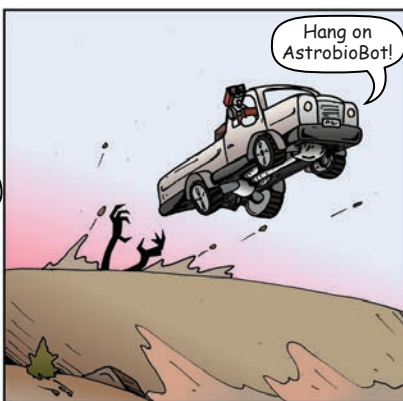
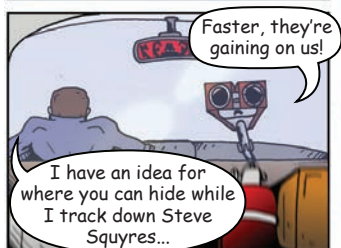
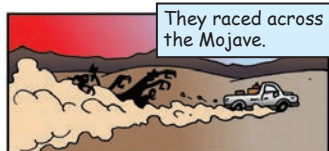
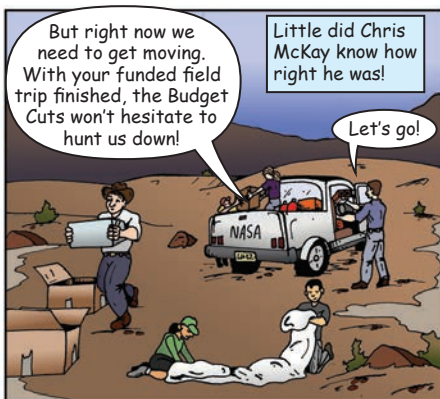


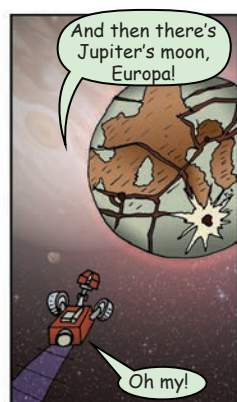
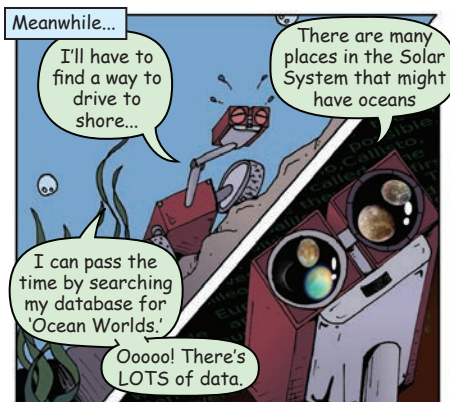
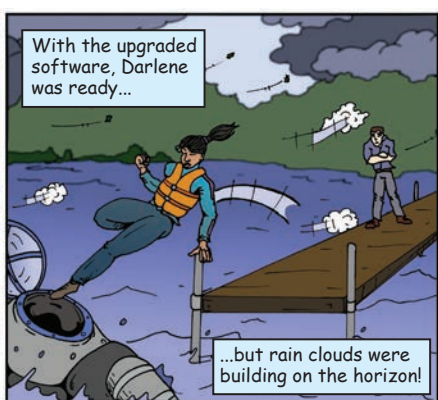
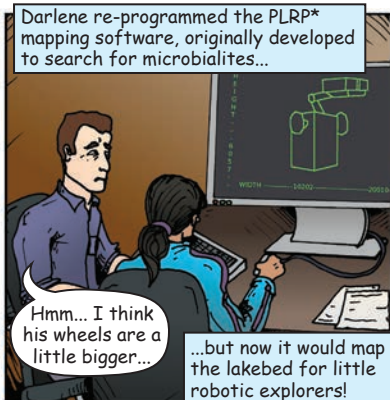
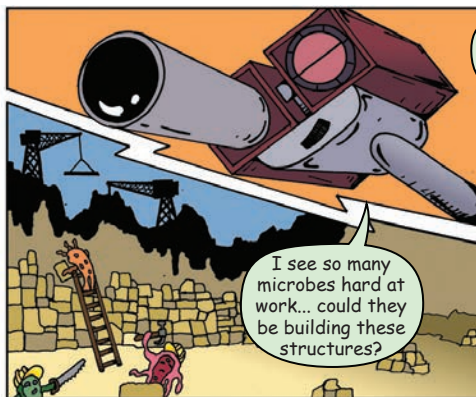
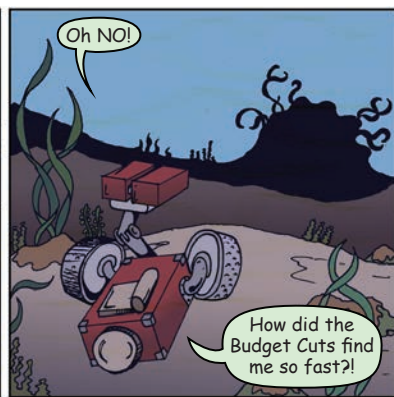
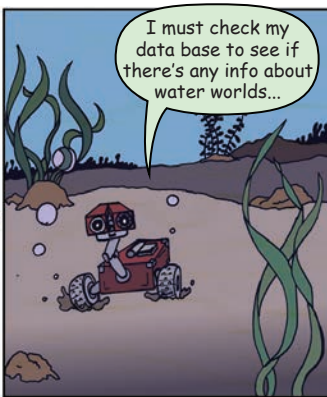
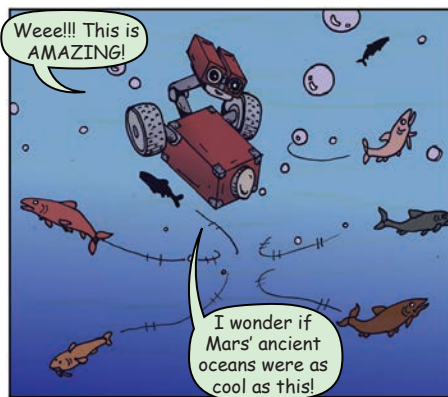


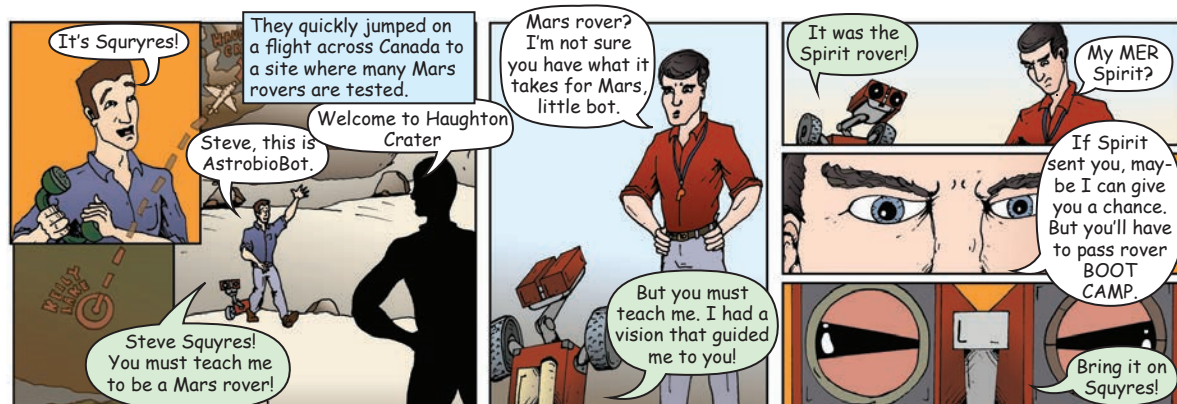
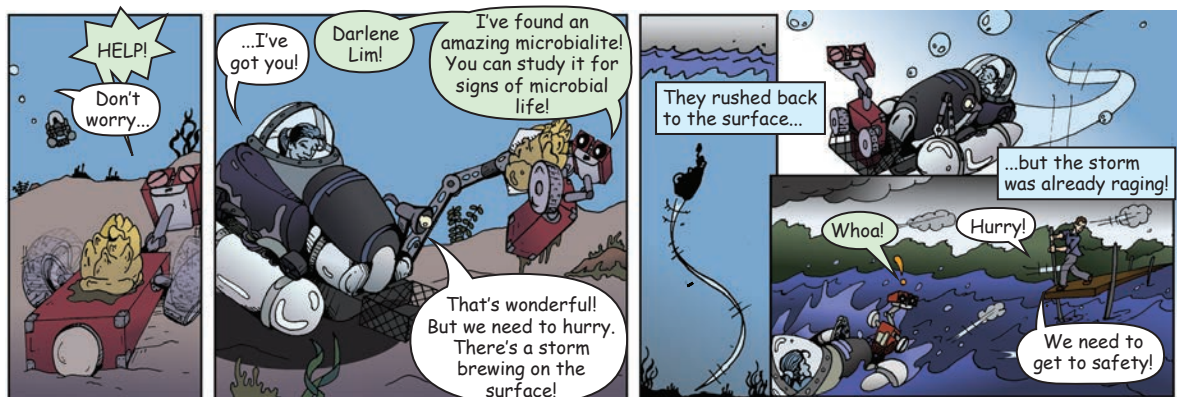
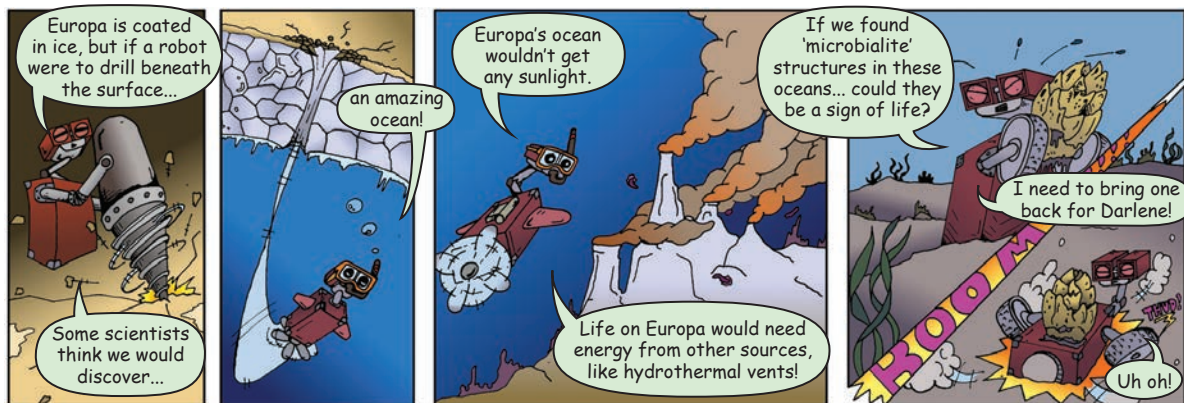


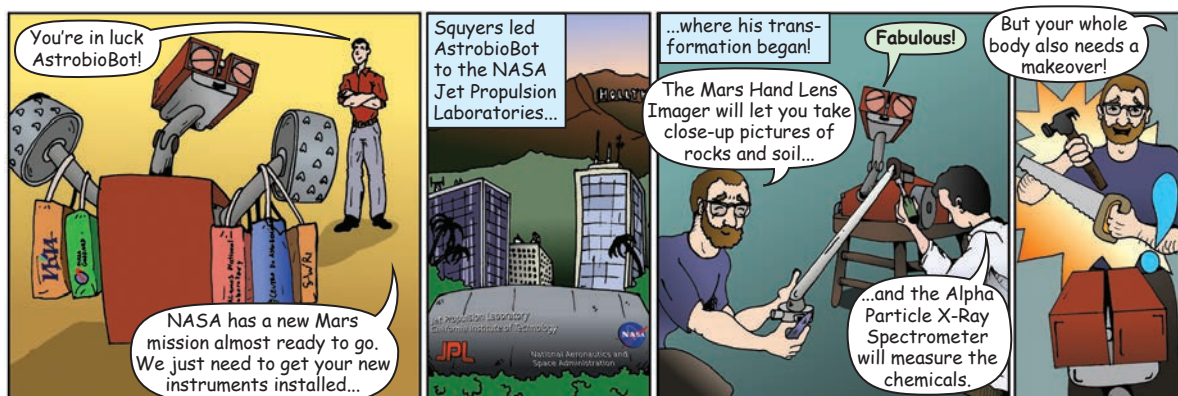
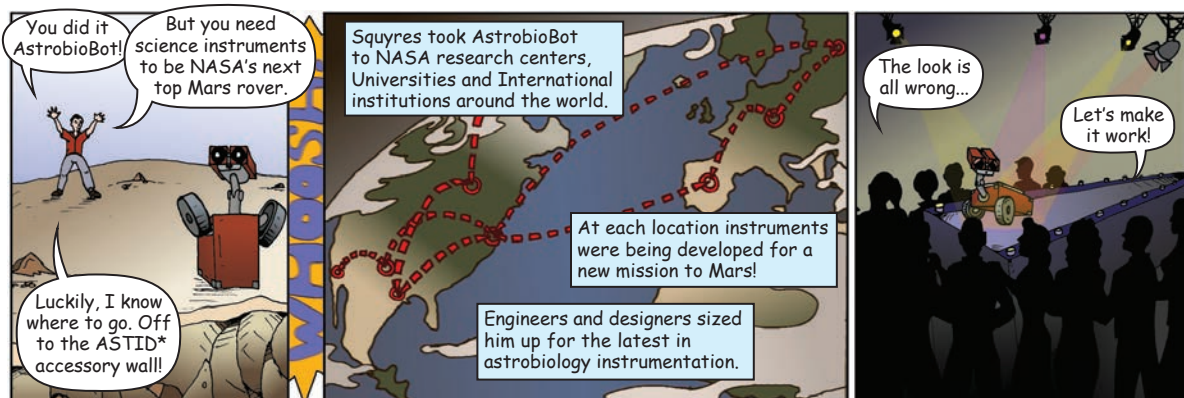
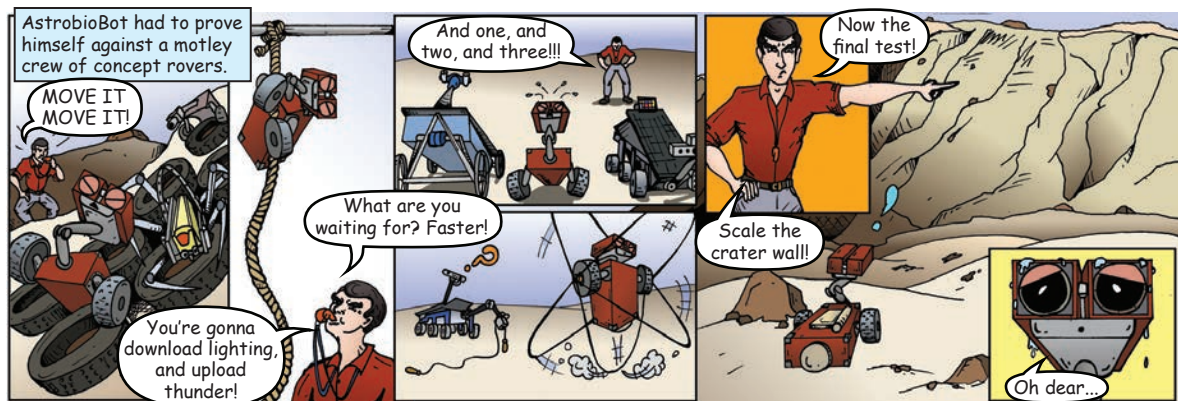


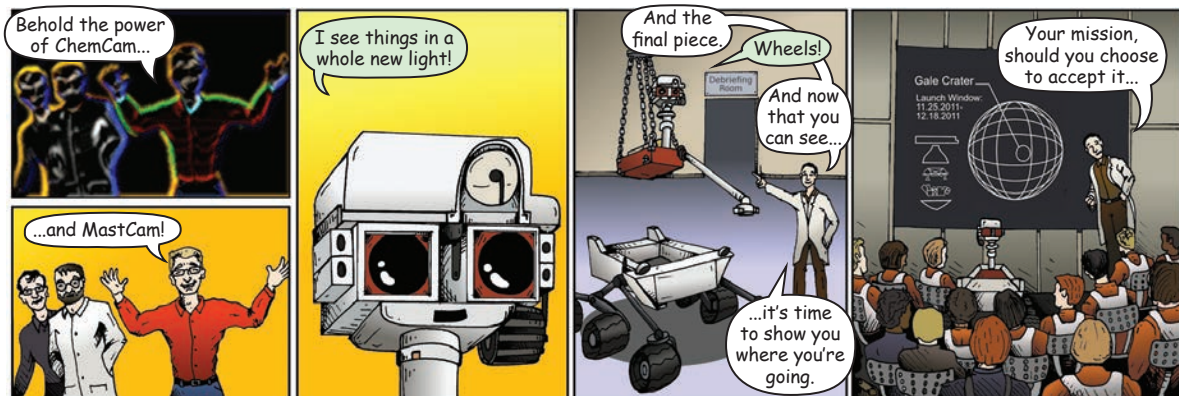
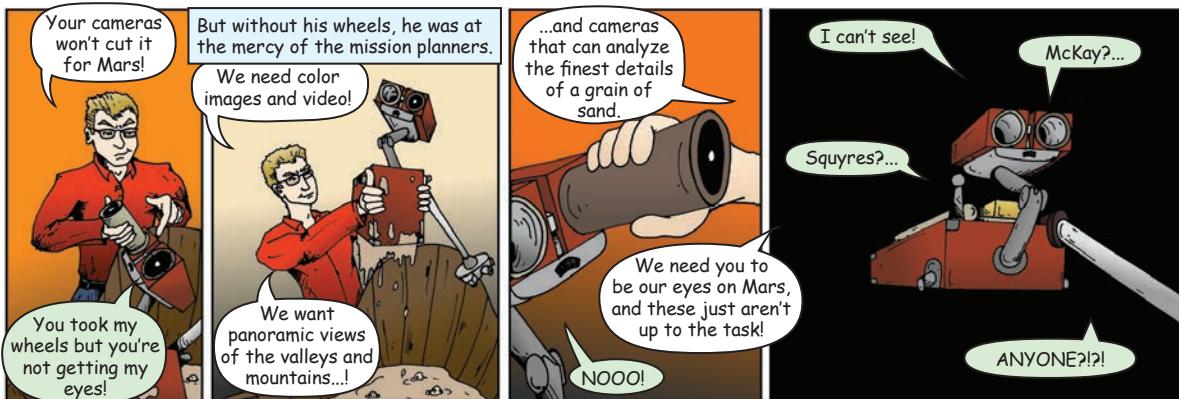
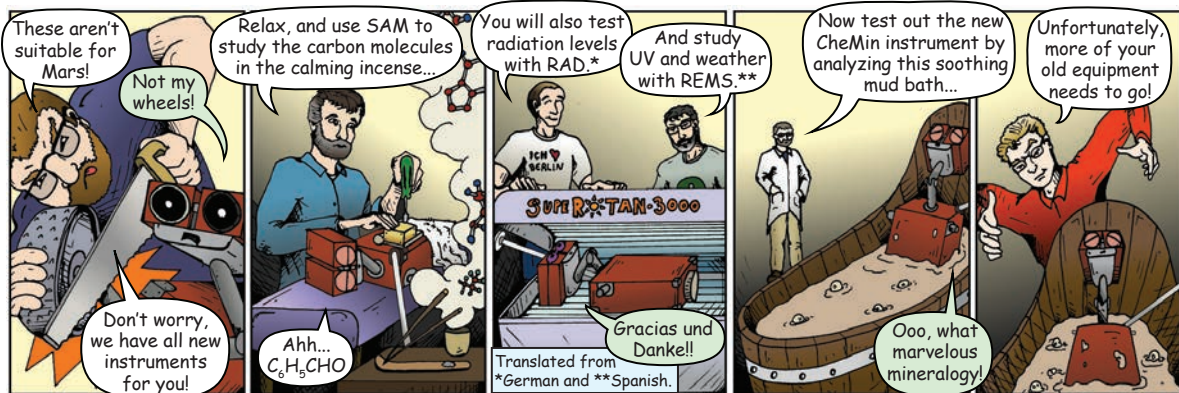


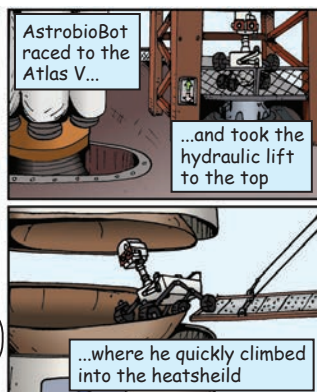
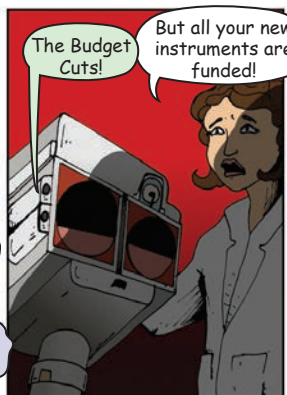
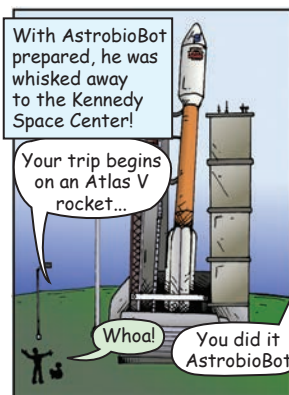
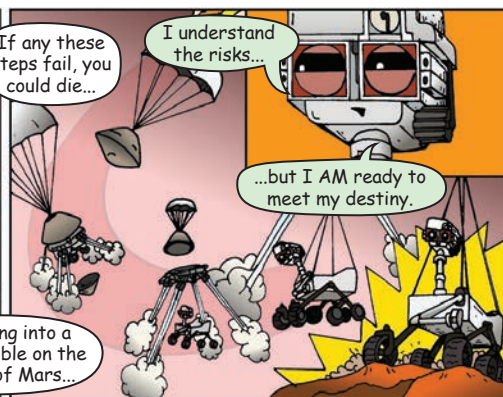
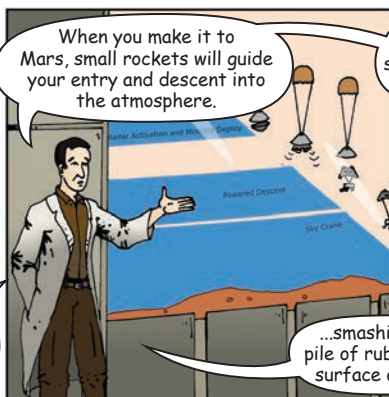


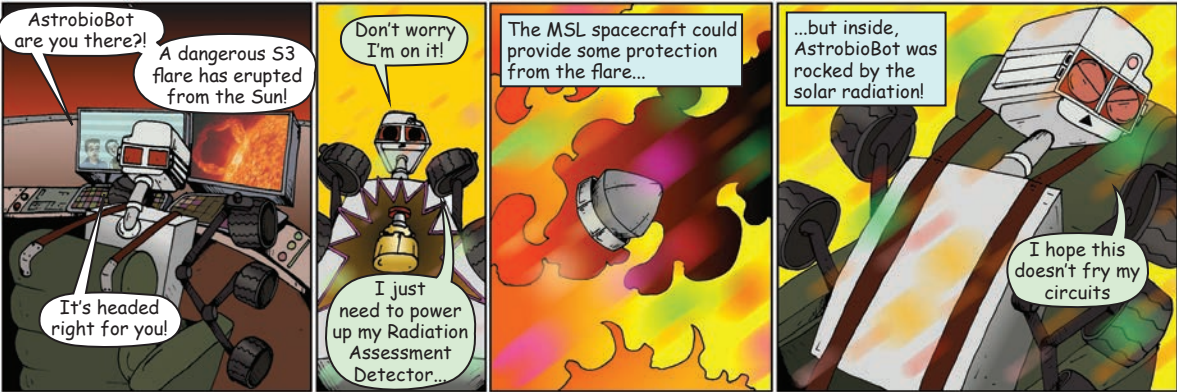
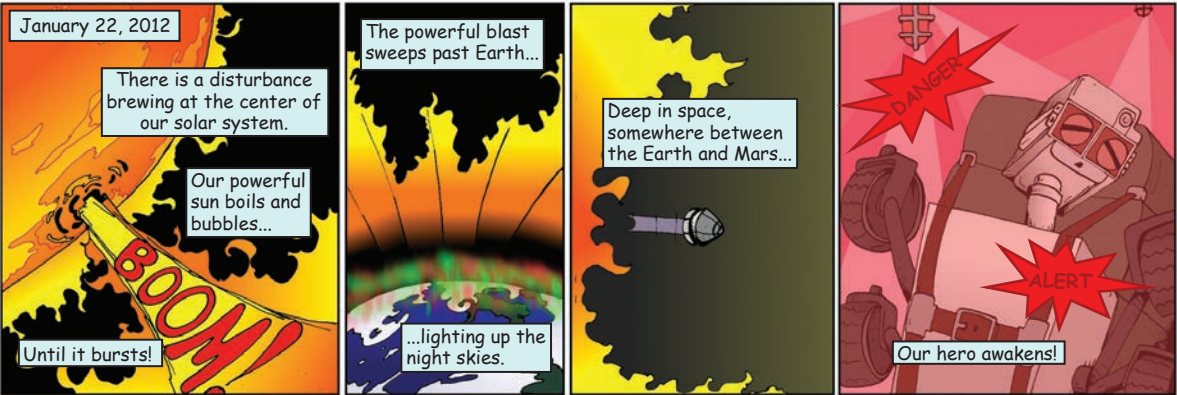
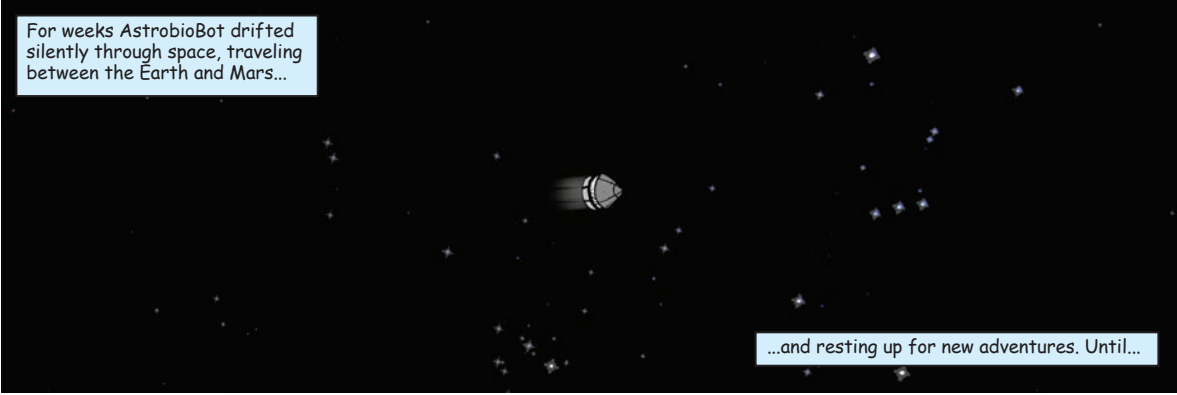
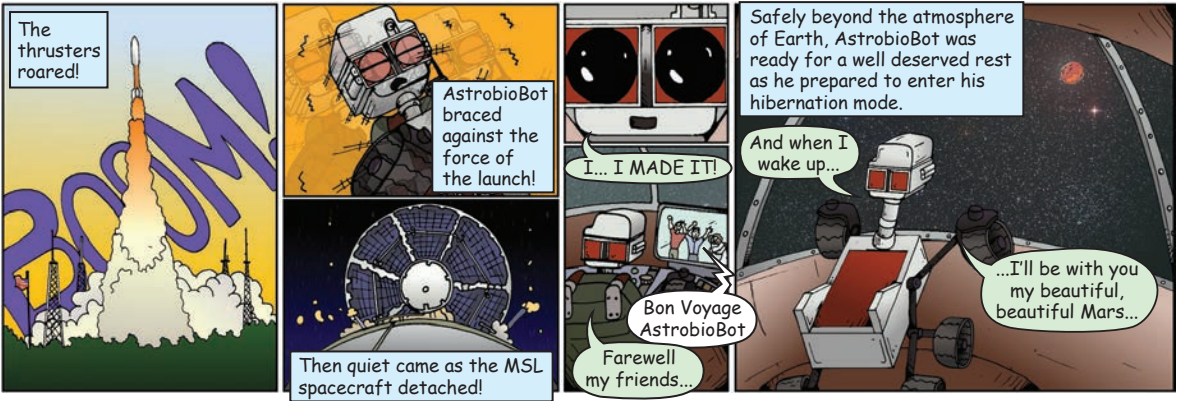


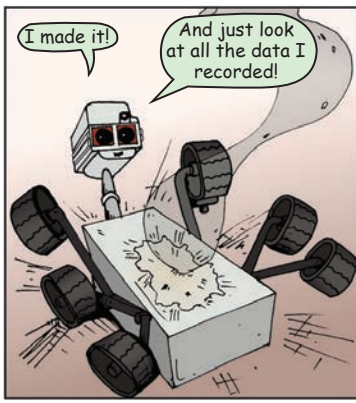






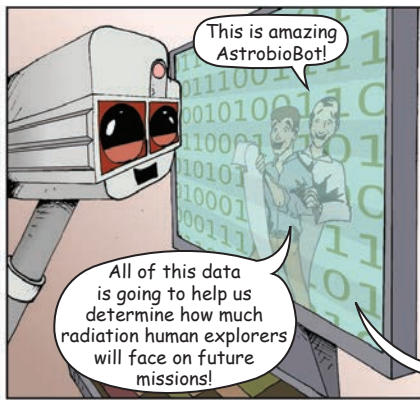






I made it!

And just look at all the data I recorded!

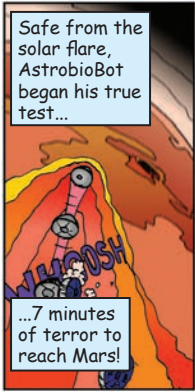


This is amazing AstroBioBot!

All of this data is going to help us determine how much radiation human explorers will face on future missions!



Good work! But now that you're awake... it's time to prepare for the most dangerous challenge you're ever going to face!



Safe from the solar flare, AstroBioBot began his true test...

...7 minutes of terror to reach Mars!

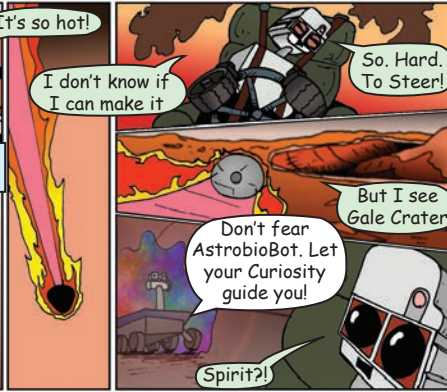


It's so hot!

I don't know if I can make it

He plowed through the atmosphere...

With only his heatshield to protect him!

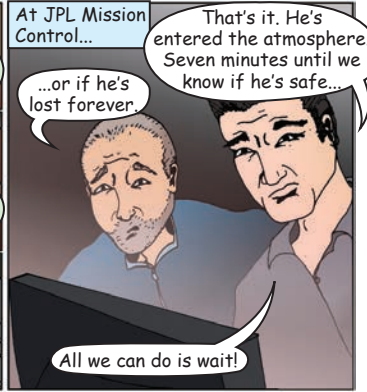


So. Hard. To Steer!

But I see Gale Crater

Don't fear AstroBioBot. Let your Curiosity guide you!

Spirit?!



At JPL Mission Control...

That's it. He's entered the atmosphere. Seven minutes until we know if he's safe...

...or if he's lost forever.

All we can do is wait!



AstroBioBot strained to keep the MSL craft on target!

Almost there!

This landing is different than my own... but I will do my best to guide you!



Deploying the parachute

POP!

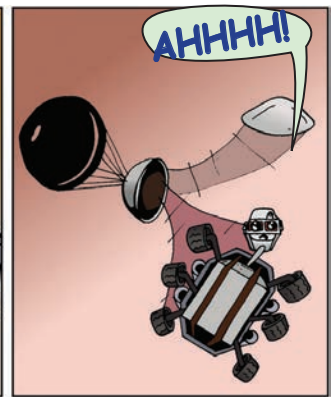
For a few quiet moments, the craft drifted toward Gale Crater...



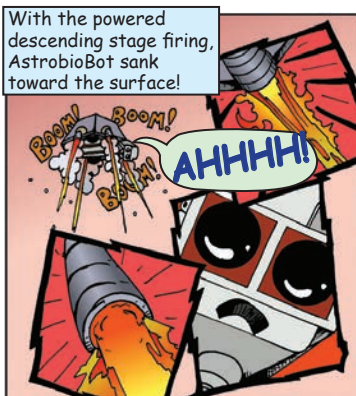
...and AstroBioBot put on his jetpack!

It's time to jump for it AstroBioBot!

Let's hope this works, Spirit!



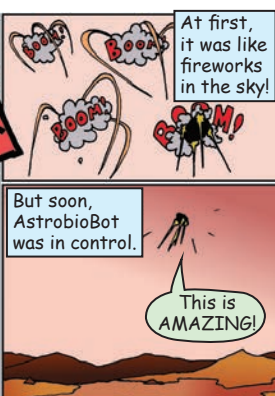
AHHHH!



With the powered descending stage firing, AstroBioBot sank toward the surface!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

AHHHH!



At first, it was like fireworks in the sky!

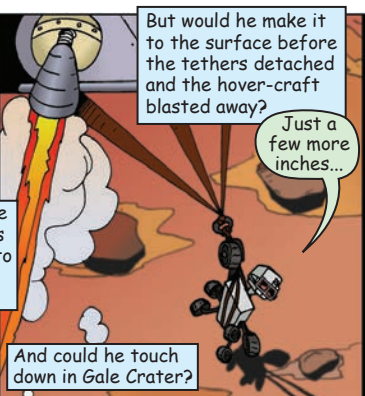
But soon, AstroBioBot was in control.

This is AMAZING!



He hovered into place above the landing site.

And the tethers began to let him down!



But would he make it to the surface before the tethers detached and the hover-craft blasted away?

Just a few more inches...

And could he touch down in Gale Crater?

